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## Farah Municipality Projects Provide Needed Services to Residents

**FARAH, AFGHANISTAN | JULY 21, 2011** — Residents of Farah will soon reap the benefits of covered drainage canals, sidewalks, culverts, and street medians thanks to three new projects the Farah Municipality identified as priorities in order to deliver services to citizens.

With support from USAID, more than one kilometer of drainage canals, nearly three kilometers of sidewalk, and box culverts will be built for four of Farah city's parks. Nearly two kilometers of covered drainage canals, sidewalks, and parking lots will also be provided in two of the city's main markets, Shah Bazaar and Bazaar-e-Omomi. Additionally, a street median will be provided in district four for more than one kilometer of road.

The drainage canals will reduce flooding in the winter and the covers will eliminate garbage thrown into the canals, improving public health in the area. The sidewalks and parking areas for the city's markets will improve commerce and reduce traffic problems particularly during winter months when there is significant flooding.

Today, U.S. Government officials joined Governor of Farah H.E. Rahool Amin, Mayor of Farah H.E. Abdul Rahim Ishaqzay, officials from the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, municipal staff and residents of Farah municipality to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new municipal projects.

Speaking at the groundbreaking, Deputy Mayor Wakili said, "We are pleased to partner with USAID on these significant projects for the people of Farah city. We look forward to providing more services in partnership with USAID, and we look to residents to identify priority projects and tell us their concerns. Our goal is to foster an ongoing mutual exchange with all city residents."

Local elders and sub-district heads were consulted during the project identification and the final projects were decided upon in close cooperation with them. Construction on these projects will begin this month. The projects will provide short-term work and income for city residents during the next few months. USAID provides support to these projects through its Regional Afghan Municipalities Program for Urban Populations project, which began in the western region provinces of Hirat, Badghis, Farah, and Ghor in 2011.

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